

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

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SMP HOSTS CAR SHOW



SMP puts on show for Marines and their families at Station PX

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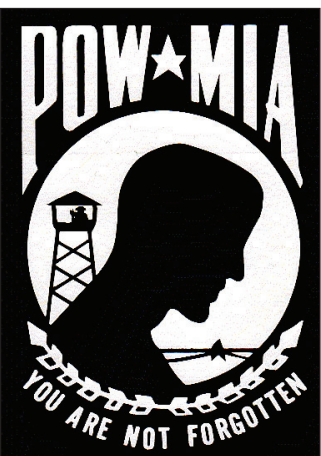
TAKE NO PRISONERS



New River football puts the kibosh on visiting team offense

SEE PAGE 18

NEVER FORGOTTEN



Retired Marine CWO-5 recounts experience as POW during Operation Desert Storm

SEE PAGE 28



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Command Message

The 2006 Marine Corps Air Station New River Air Show will be held May 12, 13 and 14 at Station Operations.

For more information, contact Maj. Michael Wood at 449-5007.

The Station will hold its annual Joint Daytime Ceremony at the parade field adjacent to the New River Fitness Center, Nov. 9, in commemoration of the 230th anniversary of the Marine Corps birthday.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., and the prescribed uniform will be the Service "A," uniform, or appropriate civilian attire.

A team of organized criminals is installing equipment on legitimate bank ATM's in at least two regions to steal both the ATM card number and the personal identification number.

The team sits nearby in a car receiving the information transmitted wirelessly over weekends and evenings from equipment they install on the front of the ATM.

If you see anything suspicious, report it to the bank using the toll free number on the ATM.

There will be a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Night at the Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Club every third Friday of each month, excluding December.

The first cards will be dealt at 6:30 p.m., and play ends at midnight.

Tickets cost \$20.

Community

There will be a Veteran's Day Parade beginning at 10 a.m., Nov. 5.

The Parade will go down Western Boulevard and end at Brynn Marr Shopping Center.

The Swansboro Young Marines will host a spaghetti dinner in honor of Veteran's Day.

The dinner will be Nov. 12, at the Family Moose Center, 161

Norris Rd., Swansboro, N.C., from 5 to 8 p.m.

Senator Harry Brown will be attending the event.

For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Dawn Davis 324-4162.

For more information on the Swansboro Young Marines, visit www.swansboroyoungmarines.com.

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher will be offering free admission to the aquarium for all military members veteran's Day.

The aquarium is open from 9 a.m., to 5 p.m., every day.

Regular admission prices are \$7 for adults, \$6 for active military and seniors aged 62 and older, and \$5 for ages 6 to 17. Children under 6 receive free admission on Veteran's Day.

The Scholarships for Military Children programs began Nov. 1. Applications are available and must be turned in by close of business Feb. 22.

Applications, eligibility and other information for the 2006 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>, or <http://www.commissaries.com>.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) or active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military.

There will be a 1-day Singles Seminar on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the CREDO Spiritual Fitness Center, Tarawa Terrace.

To sign up, please call CREDO, SFC at 450-1668 or 1673.

Youth Sports

The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department will be holding a Lacross Clinic Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Jack Amyette Ball Field.

Registration is \$20 per person, limited to children 7 to 17 years old and will take place at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex weekdays between the

hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Those wishing to attend must register by Wednesday.

For more information please call Melody Strickland at 938-2538. or e-mail to mstrickland@ci.jacksonville.nc.us.

Education

Marines leaving active duty as an officer or enlisted with a four-year degree who want to learn more about the Marine Corps Reserve and its benefits are encouraged to contact Maj. Greg B. Malone, 2nd Transitional Recruiting Office reserve officer recruiter on Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., at malonegb@lejeune.usmc.mil, or call 451-2788.

Religious Info

The Weekly Men's Bible Study Group meets every Thursday morning at 6 a.m., at the Mainside Protestant Chapel Annex behind the Base Chapel.

For more information, contact Chaplain James Dance at 451-3210, Maj. Jo Rozier at 451-7842, Staff Sgt. Stacey Lafferty at 450-8595 or Jim Sides at 451-5024.

In the Corps

Career roadmaps are available for enlisted Marines and their leaders.

Roadmaps offer a single source reference for Military Occupational Specialty training, education requirements and recommendations.

The program was initiated in 2004 and is designed to offer Marines a "one-stop-shop" guide that will enable them to capitalize on all available opportunities to enhance professional, educational and personal development.

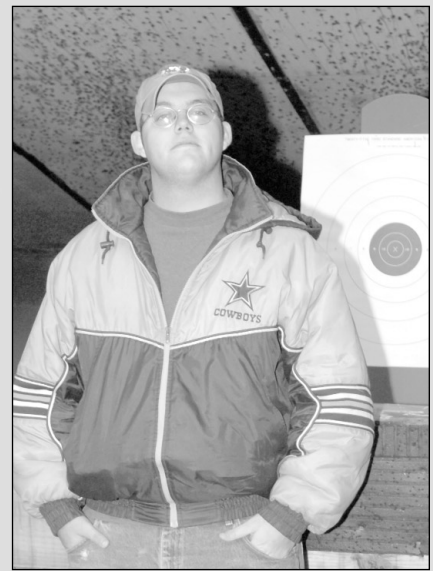
For more information, go to www.tecom.usmc.mil/g3/roadmap.php. or read All Marine Message 044/05.



Civilian Spotlight

Robert Ryan Wallace

Key entry operator for 9mm ranges



Hometown:

Jacksonville, N.C.

Family:

Wallace said he has a sister, a mom

and a dad who all live and work in the Jacksonville area.

Military background: Wallace has no military background in his family, but has respect for those who do serve.

Time on Station: He has been working here for seven months.

Best part of job: Wallace said the best part of his job is that it's easy. "I set up the targets and then just press buttons on most days, so it's a lot easier than having to tote stuff around for a living."

Best part of working with the military: Wallace said he enjoys the friendliness of the Marines from around the area. "Everyone that comes out to the range is nice. Not too many people come out here and act like jerks."

Best advice received: "Do good in school," said to me by my parents."

Person whose lifestyle I'd like to emulate: He said he'd like his life to emulate that of himself. "I wouldn't want to be anyone but myself. I enjoy being unique."

Personal hero: Wallace said his personal heroes are Derek Jeter, New York Yankees starting shortstop and Jason Giambi, a Yankees designated hitter. "Those guys get paid a lot of money for doing what they love -- playing baseball. Anyone who can get a big contract for being able to hit a ball and catch it is pretty impressive."

Is the glass half full or half empty?: He said, "The glass is half full because you always have to look at things in a certain light. If you look at life as half empty than you're going to be depressed all the time."

Personal motto: "Do what you want to do," Wallace said. "That's the way I've always lived my life."



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.



Sgt. Robert A. Sturkie

Under security provided by Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines and MEU Service Support Group-22, evacuees board a CH-46E Sea Knight from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 (Reinforced) during a non-combatant evacuation operation exercise conducted during the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit's recent Certification Exercise Oct. 2, 2005. CERTEX is the last predeployment exercise for the MEU before it deploys this year.

22nd MEU conducts evacuation exercise during recent CERTEX

22nd MEU (SOC) Public Affairs
contributor

As sea-based forces-in-readiness, Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) are often the United States' first responders in cases of international crises where Americans living, working, or traveling abroad are threatened. In such cases, when these individuals have no other means to escape, it is often the Marines who get the call to pluck them to safety.

To that end, all outbound MEUs train to conduct Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEOs) under a host of circumstances, and during its recent Certification Exercise (CERTEX), the 22nd MEU was called upon to carry out just such a

mission.

With the Camp Lejeune area serving as a fictional country, the MEU established a series of Evacuation Control Centers (ECCs) at various locations throughout the region to facilitate the exit of scores of roleplayers seeking evacuation.

At each site, Marines from MEU Service Support Group-22 and Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines screened potential evacuees, searched them for dangerous items and when necessary, provided appropriate medical care. With these processes complete, the 'evacuees' were either driven to nearby secure locations or flown aboard helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 (Reinforced) to

Navy ships offshore for further transportation to nearby safe havens.

NEOs are among a host of missions the MEU must demonstrate proficiency in before they earn their 'Special Operations Capable' designation.

"The evaluators said we did an outstanding job in all areas," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ken Mouton, the Maintenance Officer of MSSG-22, who helped head up one of the ECCs.

The 22nd MEU is scheduled to deploy soon aboard the amphibious assault ships USS Nassau, Carter Hall and Austin as the landing force for Expeditionary Strike Group-8. The MEU received its 'Special Operations Capable' designation Oct. 7.



Pfc. Samuel D. White

Nationally-known country star Ty England performs for servicemembers and their families at the Station concert site. The United Service Organization and several contributors sponsored the show for II MEF.

USO puts on big show for II MEF servicemembers, families

Pfc. Samuel D. White
correspondent

II Marine Expeditionary Force servicemembers received a warm welcome home Saturday, Oct. 22 as they enjoyed the shock and awe of nationally known musicians at the Station concert site.

The concert, sponsored by the United Service Organizations, Sanders Ford, Onslow County Tourism and Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation, was held to welcome home II MEF and commemorate their efforts while on deployment.

"The reason for putting on the concert was to show the troops we support them," said Teresa Secrest, USO event coordinator. "We are grateful for all of the sacrifices that they have made for our country and we wanted to thank them for our freedom."

The concert featured country singer Ty England, rap performer Fox 1 and heavy metal band 99 Years and was open to all military identification card holders and guests.

"The (artists) were very excited about showing their support," said Secrest. "They were all out there performing for them for free and pulled out all the stops on their performances."

The idea of finding the different types of artists was made so that the concert would appeal to all the troops' musical preferences, Secrest explained.

"We wanted to have a little of something for everyone," she added. "We wanted to make this a family show because the family members have also made sacrifices and we wanted them to be a part of this celebration."

Ty England, country music star and former lead guitarist for Garth Brooks, was especially excited to be able to perform for Marines at the Station and has been performing for servicemembers all over the world since the beginning of this year.

"I'm a huge fan of the troops, of the stand they take, of the sacrifices they make and I've always had tremendous respect for them," said England. "(The band) has been thrilled to be able to perform for the troops and, to be honest, we might have been more excited to be able to perform for them than they were to have us there."

Among the crowd enjoying the festivities were Lt. Gen. James F. Amos, II MEF commanding general, Maj. Gen. Robert C. Dickerson, Marine Corps Base Installations East commanding general, and Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer.

By the end of the event there were a few pleased faces, but more importantly, there were many grateful hearts.

"I think our troops need to know more than anything that we are standing behind them," said England. "I try to remind a lot of people that no matter what your political views are, we can agree on one thing; that when those boys and girls come home they come home as heroes and it's an honor to play for them."



Halloween

Sgt. Scott Robbins, MAG-29 headquarters MAGTF plans chief, gives candy to trick-or-treaters at his home during the Station trick-or-treat Oct. 31.

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

SMP, MCCS host car show

Lance Cpl. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

The Station Single Marine Program and Marine Corps Community Services hosted the SMP Car Show at the Marine Corps Exchange and Commissary parking lot, Oct. 30, from 11:30 a.m., to 6 p.m.

There were 50 vehicles present to be judged in three different classes – 1969 and older, 1970 – 1989, and 1990 and younger.

Greg Bryant received the first place trophy for the 1969 and older class for 1957 Chevrolet Pickup, Rick Bowman received the first place trophy for the 1970 – 1989 class for his 1970 Super Sport Camaro, and Byron Gale received the first place trophy for the 1990 and younger class.

Aside from the show, attendees were provided with a concession stand, two bands, and door prizes for those who chose to come out and support the event.

Staff Sgt. William Wallace, Station Fuels staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, received the “Diamond in the Rough” award.

“I’m proud of what I’ve done with my car and there isn’t another like it in Jacksonville,” said Wallace. “But it’s not about winning awards; it’s about showcasing my efforts.”

“I’ve had my car for about a year now and I’ve put around \$9,600 worth of work into it,” said Wallace.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan M. Myers, Air Traffic Control controller, was in charge of the organization of the event and also served as one of several judges.

“This thing has been in the works for about two months now,” said Myers. “I’m just glad I could play such a large role in the event.”

According to Lance Cpl. Steven P. Nelson, ATC controller and event judge, it was tough to judge fairly.

“All the cars looked great,” he said. “I wish we could’ve given them all a trophy.”

Along with SMP volunteers and military police, Marine Combat Training students were tasked out to assist with the organization of parking.

“It’s been great to get out of the squad bay,” said Pvt. Jamael Bazile, MCT student. “I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to come out.”



Lance Cpl. Jonathan A. Tabb

Staff Sgt. David J. Ault, Network Operations Center staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, along with his wife, Erika, and daughter, Makayla, admire Bob McCall's 1967 Ford Mustang during the Single Marine Program and Marine Corps Community Services Car Show Saturday in the Commissary parking lot. For information concerning upcoming SMP events, contact Patrick Highers, SMP coordinator at 449-5846 or e-mail to highersp@usmc-mccs.org. Or contact Lance Cpl. Jonathan M. Myers at 449-6657 or e-mail to myersjm@newriver.usmc.mil.

What will you donate to the Combined Federal Campaign?

Pace talks war of information

Jim Garamone
contributor

WASHINGTON – Information is as important in the Global War on Terrorism as bullets and bombs, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Oct. 24.

In addition to killing or capturing terrorists, the United States is aiming to stop people from wanting to join extremist groups, Gen. Peter Pace said. "What we're trying to do is influence others to understand that these thugs, these terrorists, are not out for anyone's good interest," he said to interviewer Jed Babbin on the Hugh Hewitt radio show.

Pace said people must understand that these terror groups do not have a positive message.

"What they want to do is subjugate people," the general said.

"And in that kind of a war, where they can lie and we will not and should not, information and how it is passed and how people absorb it is critical.

"We need to make sure we take every opportunity to inform folks about what we're trying to do and how we're trying to do it," he said.

Actions also must be consistent with words, the general said. "The way our forces execute things on the ground, it needs to be consistent, precise, balanced," he said.

"Whether we are saying it or doing it, the message is the same, which is: 'We are against terrorists,' and, 'We are for the Iraqi and Afghan people.'"

Pace spoke about the progress the Iraqi security forces have made. The Iraqi armed forces and police "are doing better in all categories," he said, adding, "And I don't mean to put a great, big smiley face on it."

The Iraqis are making these strides in the face of an insurgency and under attack from foreign fighters, Pace said. "They are doing extremely well," he said. "They are learning."

There are now more than 200,000 trained and equipped members of the Iraqi military and police in about 115 battalions, Pace said. Coalition officials in Iraq rate about one-third of the battalions as "in the lead," with two-thirds listed as "fighting side-by-side" with coalition units, he said.

"The most recent election strengthens the community, strengthens the bonds and reinforces for their armed forces and their police that Iraq does have a future," he said. "What (the Iraqi security forces) are doing is providing an opportunity for their fellow citizens to live in freedom. That just gets stronger every day."

ICE evaluated

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

According to a Department of Defense employee satisfaction survey, civilian employees aboard the Station are reporting increased levels of job approval.

The survey was conducted by independent contractors in order to determine a baseline job satisfaction rating among civilian employees prior to the implementation of the National Security Personnel Service within the next two years, said Michael Pisani, Station business performance officer.

“You can’t fix what you don’t know is broken,” said Pisani. “This was a baseline study to see what the climate is – we found that we set the bar very high.”

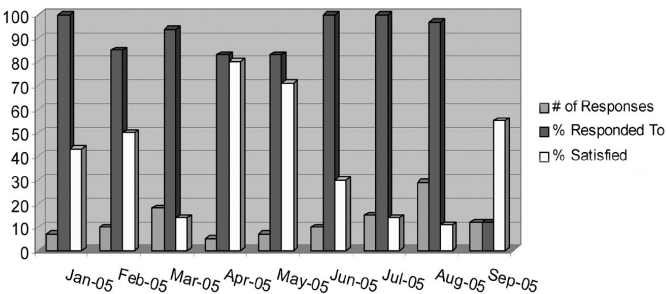
Pisani said that the new NSPS system is designed to reward high job performance rather than the current system that bases pay increase and promotions on time in service.

“No one is sure what impact NSPS will have,” said Pisani. “The system will work much like the military’s fitness reports. There will be a closer working relationship with supervisors – a more collaborative system.”

“We need to asses the quality of life among the New River employees,” added Durrel Brown, resource management officer. “The survey included many positive comments, but there are several areas we need to address and make improvements.”

According to the survey, the most positive responses from civilian employees were in regard to understanding issues that their customers face, accountability, cooperation, and the strong focus the Station maintains with regards to customer satisfaction.

“We’re here to make things better,” said Pisani. “We want to find out what they (civilian employees) need from us. We’re here to help the people who work for us and the people we support.”



The Interactive Consumer Evaluation is a Web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided by various organizations throughout the Department of Defense. Go to <https://ice.disa.mil>.

**Just got back
from deployment?
Don’t forget to
pick up an issue
of the RotoVue!**



Pfc. Samuel D. White

Master Sgt. Brian K. Arnoldussen, Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron-29/26 supply noncommissioned officer in charge, and Keith Cartwright, Eckerd Wilderness Camping Program area director, examine some of the old-style utility uniforms that will be donated.

MALS-29/26 supply brings hope to youth organization

Pfc. Samuel D. White
correspondent

Marines from Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron-26 supply made a difference today as they donated their old-style camouflage blouses and trousers to a state-wide youth organization, Oct. 28.

Keith Cartwright, Eckerd Wilderness Camping Program area director, said he was very appreciative of the uniform items and looked forward to distributing them to youth within the organization.

"There are a lot of kids who come from around the state to the program that don't have any clothes," said Cartwright. "With all these (camouflage utilities), hundreds of kids will now have clothes to wear everyday."

Master Sgt. Brian K. Arnoldussen, MALS-29/26 supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge, thought of the idea and put in most of the leg-work for donating the old-style camouflage uniforms to the program.

"I was cleaning out my closet one day and asking myself what I was going to do with all these (old-style) cammies," said Arnoldussen. "I started making some phone calls to find out who could use them and then I found this Eckerd alternative camp."

Arnoldussen said that he called the camp's headquarters and presented the idea to the directors, who were more than excited to take the clothes and put them to good use.

"We were all ecstatic when we heard about the donation," said Cartwright.

"Not having to buy clothes

for the kids anymore will save us money that can be put towards more trips like back-packing, hiking and canoeing," he added.

To prepare the utilities to be donated, Arnoldussen took home the uniforms that had been donated by Marine Aircraft Group-29 and carefully removed the old nametapes.

"Basically every night for about two weeks I was doing 30 to 40 pieces," said Arnoldussen. "All it took was turning the uniforms over and using a razor blade, so it took about one minute per nametape."

By the end of the two weeks, Arnoldussen had taken the nametapes off of 640 blouses and 220 trousers; enough utilities that Cartwright had to make two trips to transport all of the uniforms.

"I never expected to see this many uniforms donated," said Cartwright. "At least not enough to fill two full truck-loads."

Hoping this is just the beginning, Arnoldussen would like to see more old-style utilities donated so they can go to a good cause.

"These kids are having all kinds of problems with their family, money and the police, so it's about time they get a break in life," said Arnoldussen.

"I would love to see more people on base, not just MAG-29, give me a call and donate their old uniforms," said Arnoldussen.

For more information on donating the old-style cammies, call (910) 449-4201 and ask for Master Sgt. Arnoldussen.

ATC Marine leads the way

Lance Cpl. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

“Every Marine is a rifle-man.”

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Knowlton, Air Traffic Control, Crew “B,” crew officer, learned the true meaning of this essential Marine Corps adage while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II from December, 2004 to May, 2005.

“When I was stationed at (Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan), I deployed with the 31st (Marine Expeditionary Unit) to Iraq,” said Knowlton. “When we first got there, we

moved from place-to-place establishing (landing zones) and moving forward with the grunts.”

While Knowlton’s primary military occupational specialty is with ATC, he was tasked as a vehicle commander directly in charge of eight Marines and several vehicles.

“We were on our way to (Al Asad Air Base), which ended up being a five-day convoy,” Knowlton explained. “On the way there, we got ambushed by insurgents.”

According to Knowlton, enemy forces quickly took control of the high-ground and began to send rounds down range at his



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Lieutenant Col. Gregory F. Kleine presents Staff Sgt. Michael A. Knowlton with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device, Oct. 1, during a squadron formation.

Marines.

“They had snipers on an overpass, long-range machine

guns and vehicles stopped in front to block our advancement,” Knowlton said. “As the vehicle commander I had to ensure (the Marines) knew where to direct their fire.”

According to Knowlton’s award citation, “Under his cool direction, his team laid down suppressive fire until the remainder of the convoy moved through the kill zone.”

For his actions, Knowlton, a native of Denver, Colo., received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a combat distinguishing device during a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron formation Oct. 1.

Sgt. Maj. Grant VanOostrom, H&HS sergeant major, said Knowlton is a Marine who stepped up in a hostile situation and performed admirably under fire.

“This award is symbolic of the old adage that every Marine is a basic rifleman first,” said VanOostrom. “Regardless of MOS, you never know when you’re going to be called upon to serve outside your (job) – specifically, in this day and age, with the Global War on Terrorism and taskers for individual augments.”

While Knowlton is credited with having performed above and beyond the call of duty, Knowlton remains modest about the events that transpired and his role in the hostile engagement.

“To be honest, (the Marines) did all the work themselves,” he said. “Just as a Marine should.”

ROTOVIEW

Why is it important to observe Veteran’s Day each year?



“I feel we owe all of our veterans from all our wars and it’s a good show of appreciation.”

Cpl. John T. Thibodeaux, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, computer technician, Houma, Ill.



“Veterans Day is a day to pay tribute to all the people that served before us.”

Lance Cpl. Christopher L. Jones, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261, intelligence analyst, Atlanta, Ga.



“It’s important to remember all the servicemembers who came before us.”

Staff Sgt. Michael N. Mondesir, Headquarters and Service Company, School of Infantry, messhall liaison, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Non-Judicial Punishment

A Marine with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron was awarded 30 days correctional custody at Norfolk Naval Base, Va., for violation of Article 92.

A Marine with H&HS was awarded 45 days restriction and 45 days extra punitive duties along with forfeiture of \$692 for two months and reduction in rank for violating Article 86.

H&HS Motorcycle Club rides for safety

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Nine members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron motorcycle club participated in a ride to Fort Macon State Park Oct. 21 to raise awareness about safety.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Jacquelyn D. Somers, H&HS career retention specialist, the club meets once a month to ride as a group and discuss issues that affect motorcycle riders on and off base.

“The club began after safety representatives from Headquarters, Marine Corps stated that we needed some type of training within our units to help people understand the responsibilities that come with riding,” she said. “The club gives riders hands-on experience and makes

the safety message more interesting.”

Riding experience among club members ranges from several years to only a few months, but anyone can benefit from attending the safety briefs and group rides, she added.

“I learn new things every time I ride,” said Staff Sgt. Shawn Ballew, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting section leader. “Many of the mistakes I see young riders make are the result of a lack of experience.”

A big draw for the riders is the chance to ride as part of a group, which increases the overall safety and enjoyment of riding.

“Riding with a group makes the bikes easier to see,” said Ballew. “We become more visible to the people in the cars around us.”

Somers said many accidents involving motorcycles are not the

fault of riders themselves, but of the drivers in cars who are unaware of the riders around them.

“That’s something we hit on quite often in our briefs before we ride,” she said. “Making sure we are aware of what’s going on around us increases our chances of having a safe ride.”

Before beginning the ride to Fort Macon, members of the club discussed what might happen if Marines continue to be injured or killed in motorcycle accidents. One possibility being considered by commanders is the total termination of all motorcycle operations aboard installations.

“I think they were startled enough by the message to be more concerned with preventing accidents and getting the safety message out,” said Somers. “No one wants to lose their riding privileges.”

The trip to Fort Macon was another success for the club, which is open to riders, including civilians, from other units, she said.

“We had a good time. The



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
Gunnery Sgt. Jacquelyn D. Somers, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron career retention specialist, rides safely with the motorcycle club.

weather was wonderful and everyone followed directions. We had a lot of experienced riders this time”

The riders were thankful for the opportunity to get away from their jobs for an afternoon and do something they enjoy, and for the opportunity to learn new things.

“It’s good the Marine Corps wants to allow things like this as a way to protect everyone and prevent accidents,” said Staff Sgt. Eric J. Rockwell, Marine Aircraft Group-29 career planner. “There is always something you can learn from more experienced riders.”

Hey Devil Dog, have you been practicing ORM?

Customs and Traditions

During this time of year, Marines seem to pay a little more attention to Marine Corps traditions, mainly due to the celebration of the birthday of our Corps. And although the birthday of our corps is certainly one of our most prized traditions, I feel we are losing many others. One of the traditions we seem to be losing is Marine talk and terminology. The Marines of today go through "doors" rather than hatches, hang things on the "wall" rather than the bulkhead, walk on "floors" not decks, and go to the "bathroom" not the head. And the list goes on. How many Marines today know what a "field scarf" is or a "housewife". I don't even hear the term "pogie bait" or "gee dunk" used anymore.

This may sound like a trivial matter, but it starts a trend towards forgetting our history, traditions and customs.

What sets us apart as marines from the other military services is our way of doing things. Our traditions and customs is what makes the Marine Corps spirit live on. Traditions are not learned from books, they must be practiced, preserved, and handed down from one generation to the next. That is what makes them traditions and daily events.

Traditions are shown in many forms; traditions of devotion to duty, self-sacrifice, versatility and dependability; traditions of loyalty to God, country and Corps; traditions of uniforms, insignia and equipment, traditions of HONOR, COURAGE and COMMITMENT.

Traditions are as much a part of each Marine as their rifle and equipment.

One term which really bothers me is how our Marines have become known as "customers". Since when are we customers". We don't graduate "customers" from recruit training - we graduate MARINES; we don't take care of "customers", we take care of MARINES. The bottom line is - we don't call Marines "customers", we call them MARINES.

We have many proud symbols of traditions; the eagle, globe and anchor, perhaps our most sacred; our motto "Semper Fidelis"; the Mamaluke and NCO swords; our uniforms and personal appearance; our physical fitness; our discipline and courtesies.

The list goes on. If we start forgetting any of these traditions, such as Marine talk and terminology, then what comes next?

We must preserve all our traditions and customs and we must practice them on a daily basis. Even more, we must demand our younger Marines practice them and pass them on to the next generation of war fighters.

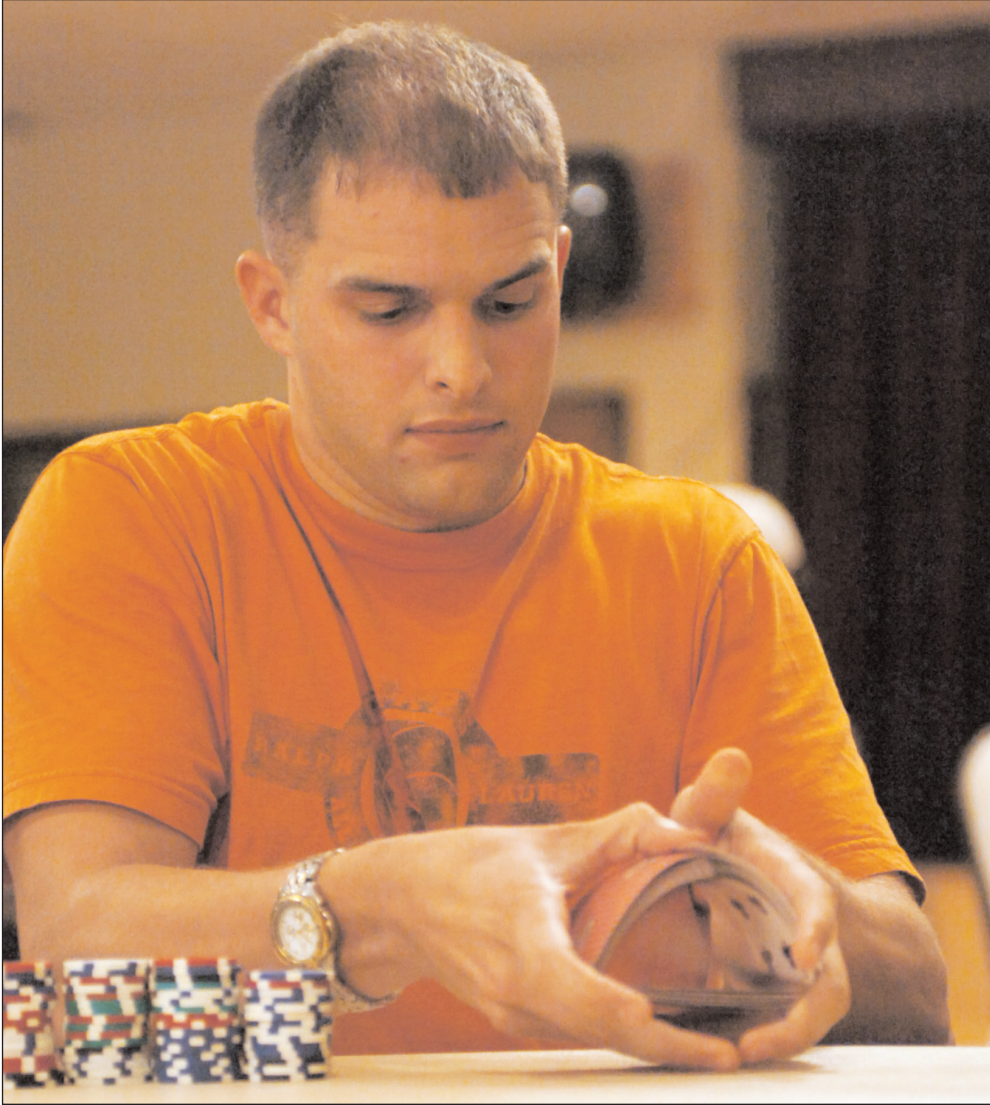
Editor's note: This article was contributed by retired Sgt. Maj. Paul W. Siverson, who now works at Marine Corps Air Station New River's Installation Personnel Administrative Center.

For questions or comments, contact Siverson at 449-7353 or e-mail to siversonpw@newriver.usmc.mil.

Jacksonville community goes ‘all-in’ on New River poker night



(Above) A Marine from the Lejeune area deals out cards to his fellow Hold ‘Em players. (Below) Cpl. Timothy L. Johnson, a Camp Lejeune Provost Marshal’s Office dog handler, shuffles a deck of cards during poker night at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club, Friday Oct. 21. Johnson, as well as 85 other players, enjoyed spending time with the Jacksonville community and being able to play poker closer to home.



How to play Texas Hold ‘Em

- Each player is dealt two cards face down. These are known as the ‘Hole Cards.’ A round of betting then occurs by the players who feel their cards are strong enough to play. Depending on the type of game, there may be a limit on how much is allowed to be bet.
- Three cards are then dealt face up on the center of the table in what is known as the ‘Flop.’ These cards are for everyone’s use to create the best possible hand. Another round of betting will then occur by each of the players still participating in the hand.
- A fourth card is then dealt face up next to the previous three, this is known as the ‘Turn Card.’ Another round of betting then occurs.
- Finally, the fifth and final card is dealt face on the table, this is known as the ‘The River.’ A final round of betting then occurs and the player who has the best five-card hand by a combination of his two cards and the five on the table, wins the money.

Story and photos by
Pfc. Samuel D. White
correspondent

“All-in!”
Excitement builds as a steely-eyed Marine pushes all of his hard-earned chips towards the center of the table. His tournament life at stake, he’s willing to lose it all on the chance that his two cards are best. With a stone-cold face he stares down weak-willed opponents who fold their cards one after another. Thinking he’s about to take it all, he shows his first sign of weakness: an eager look flashes in his eyes. His mistake is easily noticed by the last man standing who quickly snaps, “I call.” Wide-eyed and eager, the other four players start counting each of the players’ stacks to determine the total amount of dough on hand. The room collectively leans back on the hind legs of their chairs to get a better look, curious at the commotion.

Ready to seal their fates, the two contenders slam their cards face up for all to see, neither of them prepared for the outcome. No matter what cards show, this is a comm scene that is all too familiar to most Texas Hold ‘Em players. It was also a scene that was acted out here several times by players from all over the area at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club Friday, Oct. 21. “Ever since we started poker night, the response has been very good,” said Staff Sgt. Craig J. Alley, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting section leader. “(Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune) has had several poker nights, but their turnouts can’t even compete with ours.”

Poker night at the SNCO club was started in April 2004 and has sparked an over-

whelming amount of support from the community ever since. “Normally we’ll have between 75 and 80 people show up,” said Alley. “One time we had a month where we sold 100 tickets and had 20 people on a waiting list hoping to get a seat on the floor, so you never know how many players you might get.” Texas Hold ‘Em, the host game to poker night, is a type of poker where a player receives two cards and tries to make the best possible hand out of his cards and the five placed in the center of the table for everyone’s use.

The players bet money, or chips, on their cards depending on the strength of their hand. In the end, the player with the best hand wins all the chips that were bet. It’s a game that has taken off in television and movies and has quickly turned from a leisure pastime to a professional sport. “Texas Hold ‘Em is a huge thing now,” Alley explained. “It’s on a lot of (TV) stations like (Entertainment) and ESPN. Around here you’ll even see a lot of people wearing sunglasses and headphones trying to imitate the people they watch on TV.” The different style of play and diversity in the number of people is one of the best experiences of poker night, said Alley. “You meet people from all over the place,” he added. “You’ve got civilians from out in town, civilians that work on base, Marines, wives; you’ve got everything from sergeants major down to (privates first class) playing.” Stephen Powers, a retired master gunnery sergeant with 28 years experience in the Corps, said that the people who play are a big factor to the reason he continues to come to poker night.

“The other



(Above) Staff Sgt. Andrew C. Wickenden, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron squadron gunnery sergeant and the winner of the October tournament, shows one of the hands that contributed greatly to his success, four of a kind aces. Wickenden walked away with a \$500 gift certificate to the post exchange for his card-playing abilities. (Left) A player observes his two cards, also known as “Hole Cards,” during the tournament.

Pictures from 'Around the Corps'



Lance Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich

After the event, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Estrada took time to converse, and take photos with approximately 30 Marines. Estrada remarked, "We have 230 years of responsibility and we can't screw that up."

Sergeant major of the Marine Corps visits Camp Lejeune

Lance Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich
II Marine Expeditionary Force

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. -- The 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, visited Lejeune and addressed II Marine Expeditionary Force units Oct. 21.

"I am committed to you. I am your speaker to the Commandant," Estrada told Marines gathered at the base theater.

Estrada praised Marines for their service and duty throughout these crucial times.

"Thank all of you for what you are doing for me and the nation. Thank you for joining or re-joining during this very defining time in history. You are making a difference," he said.

According to Estrada, Marines have responded and their performance is superb across the board. He reminded the audience that the quality of the Corps has never been better, and that each generation of Marines has a reputation to uphold and pass on to the next.

"We have 230 years of responsibility and we can't screw that up. Remember who you are. Remember what you represent," Estrada said.

The Marine Corps is considered by Estrada to be the most respected fighting force in the world, with other military forces desiring to be like U.S. Marines.

After Estrada paid tribute to Marines he wanted to know about their concerns. Marines asked questions on everything from barrack space to the pull out in Iraq. Though he stated that he was not sure when we would be withdrawing troops from Iraq, he did say we could not protect them and their borders forever. Eventually, he said, Iraqi citizens will have to take care of themselves.

Something of great interest to the Marines were the vast variety of issues concerning the barracks. According to Estrada, they are "currently being addressed and rest assured, something is going to happen." Whether the Marine Corps builds new barracks, refurbishes old ones or allows noncommissioned officers to move off base, changes in living conditions are a priority and will be handled, he said.

Estrada, the senior enlisted Marine, resonates the pulse of the entire enlisted Corps to the Commandant. His presence at Camp Lejeune assured Marines their voice would be heard.



Lance Cpl. J. Ethan Hoaldrige

Free fallin'

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC, CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii -- Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, performed parachute operations, Oct. 18 from 5000 feet above Kaneohe bay from CH-53D helicopters. The reconnaissance Marines are trained to make silent, undetectable insertions for future missions.



Lance Cpl. Cathryn Lindsay

Tuck the chin!

CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA -- Lance Cpl. Joshua J. Smith, left, tries to push Lance Cpl. Jonathon G. Tufo off him during water grapping at a Camp Schwab beach Oct. 11. The Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office also participated in knife-to-knife training and grapping in the sand during their daylong training at Camp Schwab. Smith is a dog handler and Tufo is a patrolman with PMO.

Call the local 24 hour hot line 938-3273

Reports

Property damage

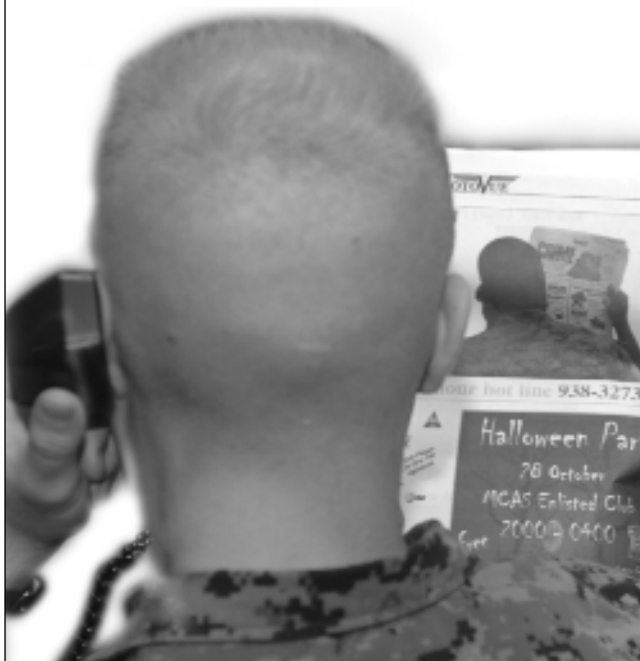
On Sept. 17 and Oct. 2, persons unknown committed property damage at the Jacksonville Country Club. During these incidents, the club's golf carts were removed from the garage area where they were chained up and damaged.

Damage was done to various monuments around the golf course as well.

Anyone with any information about the incident or identities of the suspects, please contact Detective H. Evans at 455-1472 or Crime Stoppers.

CRIME STOPPERS

- * Report crime anywhere in our community.
- * Caller never reveals his/her identity.
- * Pays **CASH** rewards up to \$2,500.00.
- * Information must lead to arrest and indictment.
- * Reward is collected through code system.



X-BOX

"Madden"

TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

**MCCS
Enlisted Club
1900**

Prizes Awarded
Gift certificate to MCCS Exchange.

1st \$100
2nd \$50
3rd \$25



Free event

This event is for Single Marines Only! For more details call 449-5846.

Youth
Basketball & Cheerleading
Registration
starts
29 November - 9 December



Inline Roller Hockey
Registration
starts
29 November - 9 December
Ages: 7 - 17
Open to the Public
For more details on
Youth registration please call 449-6714.

New River football season kicks off

Team continues to make a mesmerizing impact on opposing forces

Pfc. Samuel D. White
correspondent

The New River football season kicked off at Camp Lejeune’s Intra Field Oct. 24, as New River climbed into the ring against a team that can hardly be considered a rival, Lejeune’s 6th Marine Regiment football team.

As history has a way of doing, it repeated itself this year as New River once again put a pounding on the Lejeune team, 26-0.

“We stomped this team last year and stomped them again this year,” said Sgt. Anthony “Crime Dog” Cremeans, New River football head coach. “We played a hell of a game against them, but there is still room for improvement.”

The game looked promising for “Crime Dog’s” team from the beginning as the New River defensive line, also known as the “Hit Men,” flexed their muscles against the Lejeune offense. On a 6th Marines third down sweep to the right side of the field, the “Hit Men” mauled the Lejeune quarterback and forced a fumble. The pigskin was recovered by Staff Sgt. Johnny “Diesel” Akers who took the ball in for the first New River touchdown of the season.

“The defense scoring first for me totally sums up our team,” Cremeans boasted. “They are the foundation on which our team was built, so it is fitting for them to lead the charge into the season.”

Not only were the “Hit Men” producing points, but so was the tenacious and explosive New River offense. On the offense’s opening drive three penalty flags took the teams running backs touchdowns away. Willing to try a different route, quarterback Navy Seaman Lacardian “Bo” Jones, a New River dental technician, completed a 32-yard pass to wide out Cpl. Jeremy “Peanut” Rykard for a touchdown.

“My offensive line opened up

some huge holes for the running backs,” said Cremeans. “But those 20 and 30 yard runs for touchdowns don’t count if we clip or hold.”

The “Hit Men” held the Lejeune offense to three and outs and turnovers for the entire game, while the New River offense ran the field with three backs each rushing for 100 yards on the day.

“All my backs ran hard,” said Cremeans. “We have some that need more practice with the starting offensive line to learn our scheme.”

“I don’t understand why (6th Marines) tried to pass on us in the rain or even at all,” Cremeans added. “The ‘Hit Men’ are contract headhunters, they are fast, hard hitters and they swarm to the ball.”

With the season just starting out a lot can be expected from this New River team as they continue to win games and pound their way through the 2005-2006 season.

“We are taking this season one game at a time,” said Cremeans. “We are the destroyers of hopes and dreams and the other teams should be put on notice that the ‘Hit Men’ are coming. (Other teams) are strolling right into the beast’s lair, with no idea what is lurking at the Air Station field. I guess they will find out because it’s feeding time for my boys and they are all hungry.”



Pfc. Samuel D. White



Pfc. Samuel D. White

(Above) Lance Cpl. Adam Welch lunges to pummel a quarterback from Camp Lejeune as he attempts to throw a pass. Welch is a member of the New River defensive line who have been intimidating opposing offenses. (Left) Sgt. Anthony Cremeans addresses his team in a huddle.



Upcoming games

Monday Oct. 24th New River vs. 6th Mar 26-0 (New River)	Monday Oct. 31st New River vs. 2nd Maint Bn	Monday Nov. 21st New River vs. HQSVCBN
Monday Dec. 5th New River vs. HQBN 2nd Mar Div	Monday Dec. 12th New River vs. Brig Co	Monday Jan. 9th New River vs. HQSVCBN

Home games in bold, all others played at Liversedge Field, Camp Lejeune.

‘Untouchables’ keep Al Asad flightlines ready for war

Cpl. James D. Hamel
2d Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq -- On the runways of Al Asad, Iraq, the Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 repair roads and maintain equipment so flightlines built during the Saddam Hussein era can support modern Marine Corps aircraft.

To accomplish their mission, the Untouchables of MWSS-272 maintain a host of flightline equipment, from runway lights to M31 arrested landing gear, a new piece of equipment that can stop a jet fly-

ing at hundreds of miles an hour on a dime.

It's an important piece of gear, despite the rarity with which it's used.

"Most of the time, arresting gear is only used in emergencies," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Saulo Ugarte, the MWSS-272 expeditionary airfield and aircraft, fire and rescue officer-in-charge and a Walnut, Calif., native.

"It's like a backup. It's there for the pilots' security and to give them peace of mind," Ugarte explained

The gear is also used on aircraft carriers. The shortened runway of a carrier makes it necessary. At Al Asad, where the flightline is many miles long, a situation the gear would be needed is if an aircraft experiences brake failure.

As the gear is often the final resort in case of emergency, it is the subject of intense monitoring and preventative maintenance. Every year the flightlines at Al Asad are inspected by technical representatives from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., to ensure their readiness. The M31 arrested landing gear is placed under particularly intense scrutiny.

The inspection takes place during late October, coinciding with scheduled biannual preventative maintenance on the M31 gear.



Cpl. James D. Hamel

Corporal Travis Goodwin, Staff Sgt. James Seeger and Cpl. Ryan Hebert, members of Marine Wing Support Squadron-272's expeditionary airfield team, work to extract parts from the M31 arrested landing gear system. The team dismantled the M31 to perform biannual preventative maintenance.

While operating under the watchful eyes of readiness inspectors might rile some, Ugarte likened the maintenance to a car getting its oil changed.

"(For the biannual maintenance) we tear apart the gear, ensure the bearings are still good and lubricate it," said Cpl. Victor J. Santiago, a runway crewman with MWSS-272 and West Palm Beach, Fla., native.

Corporal Matthew L. Vandentop, a runway crewman and native of Rock Valley, Iowa, said the system stops aircraft by a complex hydraulic system that uses pressure, rather than friction to stop aircraft. An important part of the M31's success is that it's held down by 55 stakes, each four feet in length.

"Out here, it's a big process to get all these stakes down," said Vandentop. "In the rear, it's easy to get them in the ground (because the soil is soft.) In Iraq, the ground is like rock after the first foot, so it's a challenge."

Despite the challenges and pressure of inspection, Ugarte's Marines continue to complete the mission efficiently.

"My expeditionary airfield Marines are working like a dream team," he said. "They take care of themselves. They're quick, safe and they take their job seriously."

‘Untouchable’ Facts

*MWSS-272 is currently providing aviation ground support for the entire airbase at Al Asad as well as Forward Operating Base Al Qaim.

*MWSS-272 was responsible for providing aviation ground support to three FOB's during Operation Desert Storm. One of them, FOB Joe Foss, was the largest expeditionary airfield built since World War II.

Chaplain MCMAP's Iraqi insurgent rats

Lt. Cmdr. Terry W. Eddinger
Marine Aircraft Group-26



All of us who have been to Iraq find ourselves with some unusual stories, those you wouldn't expect for being in a com-

bat zone.

This one is my story.

While stationed at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, I had a visitor in my barracks room in the early hours of the morning.

I was dozing, not really asleep, around 4:30 a.m. when I sensed the presence of something alive very near me.

Perhaps I felt or heard something.

I opened my eyes, looked to the right, and saw a dark shadow move across the sheets on the corner of my bed.

This movement was about 15 inches from my face and about six inches from my right arm.

I sat up immediately but I didn't reach for my flashlight because the shadow disappeared on the table next to my bed, the same location as my light.

I heard the sound of my night visitor jump off of the table and run cross the floor so I fumbled for my light (feeling for it and knocking stuff off the table) and

turned it on.

Looking around, I spotted a good size, brownish rat (about 12 or more inches long including tail) that was now running back and forth under the other set of bunk beds in my room.

I think he had been after a partial package of saltine crackers I had left on my bed table.

I got up and hurriedly turned on the overhead light. I stood there for what must have been at least a minute trying to decide what to do next, namely, how to kill it.

I didn't want another night visit from some fuzzy, flea-bitten rodent!

Looking down at my bare feet and thinking how exposed they were, I decided to put on my desert combat boots, although I didn't lace them up.

So, in black shorts, dark green t-shirt, and combat boots with boot strings a flopping, I began chasing this critter around the room, stomping as I went.

He went in my bathroom and, after taking what seemed like a one-hour scenic tour, went back into the bedroom with me in hot pursuit.

All the while, I kept thinking about two things: One - I can't let him get to the door (the one going out to the passageway and to other people's rooms) because he would go under it and escape, and two - what can I use to help

my cause.

I remembered a broom I kept in the bathroom and grabbed it.

So, now I'm in pursuit of a speedy rat running around my room with me swatting at it with a broom (in shorts, t-shirt, and combat boots with laces flopping).

The chase went on for several more rounds into the bathroom and back into the bedroom with me a whacking at this nimble not-so-little creature.

As he went under things in the room, I moved them rather noisily while stabbing and whacking with the broom (throw in an occasional stomp).

I really didn't care what my neighbor might have thought of the calamity at the time.

Finally, I think I tired him out since he seemed to slow down a bit.

I managed to pin him down with the broom's bristles as he tried one more lap around the room.

Then came the stomp of the left foot (actually more like three or four stomps).

I don't know if those were tan belt or gray belt Marine Corps martial arts moves but they were very effective.

Now I had a hastily dying rat and a goodly amount of splattered blood in the middle of the floor.

Furthermore, I had bent the

metal handle of my broom so much that the dustpan would no longer fit on it.

I guess I sacrificed some accuracy for intensity with my boot stomps.

It was a small price to pay.

I scooped up the mangled carcass in the dustpan and headed for the door.

No way that creature was staying in my room, even if dead!

I took my lifeless night nemesis outside the building a ways, threw him into a razor wire fence, and then went back to my room. I didn't bother to see where he landed.

Upon inspection after returning to my quarters, I found that my room was a wreck but it didn't take too long to clean up the blood and rearrange everything I had strewn about while I had been in hot pursuit.

After that, I went back to bed and actually went to sleep fairly quickly.

When I went out to see where the rodent landed a few hours later after sunrise, I found him hanging upside down in the wire fence about four feet off the ground.

Perhaps that's an appropriate place for a dead Iraqi insurgent rat.

I guess some battle stories aren't quite what you might expect.

Safety Snippets: Turkey fryers

Turkey fryers safety tips:

There's nothing better than a deep fried turkey, but there are a few safety tips you should be aware of before you break out the fryer:

- * Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors at a safe distance from buildings and other materials that can burn.
- * Never use them on wooden decks, in garages or under eaves or overhangs.
- * Keep them on a flat surface to prevent tipping.
- * Never leave the fryer unattended. Without a thermostat control, the oil may continue to heat until it catches fire.
- * NEVER let children or pets near the fryer.
- * Do not overfill the fryer; spilled oil on the burner may catch fire.
- * Use ORM and some good old prior proper planning by testing your fryer with water to ensure it is large enough to hold the oil and turkey with plenty of room between the top of the oil and the top of the fryer.
- * Always follow the manufacturer's directions.
- Now for some PP&E that will ensure you get a chance to enjoy that golden brown turkey:
 - * Use well insulated potholders or oven mitts when handling the fryer pot.
 - * Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil spatter.
 - * Keep an ABC multi-purpose fire extinguisher nearby.
 - * NEVER use water to extinguish a grease fire!

Hunter's Creek Elementary School learns about weather



Cpl. Stephen R. Sawyer

Station Tour

Private First Class Adam B. Keith, Meteorological and Oceanographic Center weather observer, explains the functions of a PMQ-3, a device used to measure wind direction and speed, to a group of Hunter's Creek Elementary School fifth graders during a tour of METOC, Oct. 26. The group of about 125 children arrived on Station at 9 a.m., and departed around 12 p.m.

Memorial Chapel services

Sunday Services
Catholic 9 a.m.
Protestant 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.

Carolina Living: Letters hold special meaning

Kelley and Alice
contributors

Once our Marine or sailor leaves for deployment, there is one thing in common for each of us left behind: We suddenly know precisely when our mailcarrier comes to deliver our mail. We begin to wait for that first handwritten letter from our loved one telling us where he or she is, what the climate is like, what the food is like, and how they are faring in those first weeks of separation. We hope they are high-spirited, but also that they miss us dearly! We read this letter over and over again and store it in a very safe place. Eventually, we receive more and soon we have a stack of written words that becomes our tangible connection between them and us.

Just as spouses cherish these handwritten memories and beloved words, so do our partners. They wake up each morning eager for mail call. They love to hear how their children are doing, how the climate is back in North Carolina, how you made their favorite meal last night, and how much you miss

and love them. These letters also are stored for later reflection. They are the items that, if there is only time to grab one extra thing before heading out to the unknown, are surely what are whisked away.

Since these letters are often the only valuables a service member has as his or her 'piece of home,' you would not want them to hold a letter with the intricate details of the argument you had with your oldest son about staying on the phone until midnight or how your mother-in-law just drives you crazy and you wish to never speak to her again. These thoughts should be kept back here in the states in a journal somewhere near your bedside table, unless you are speaking in past terms about the situation and adding in some humor that your Marine or sailor can sit back and laugh about.

So, what should your letters say? What shouldn't they say? We went looking and found that the military offers several resources and even guide books on how to communicate during separations, including tips on what to write in letters. Why, you ask, would the

military care what you write? The answer is simple: If your Marine or sailor's morale is high, then he or she is eager to come home, and easily comprehends that life back home is positive and awaiting his or her arrival. He or she is going to work hard to get the mission completed, be ready and willing for the next task, and ultimately, get home safe and alive. As spouses, we desire this as well; more than anything really, so let's learn what not to write in our letters, and also what to make sure we don't forget.

If you are going to write about bad news, sugar coat it. If you need to write about something bad that happened, make sure you write it in a way that leads to the positive ways you are handling it and hope to resolve the issue. Also, if you write about something unpleasant, make sure to also write about something positive in the same letter.

If your spouse writes to you and asks you question, make sure to answer them in your next letter back to him or her. Obviously, if they write about it, it is on their mind, so answering the question(s)

will help clear up their thoughts.

When you write a letter while looking at your spouse's picture, it makes you feel closer to them, as if you are really talking to him or her directly.

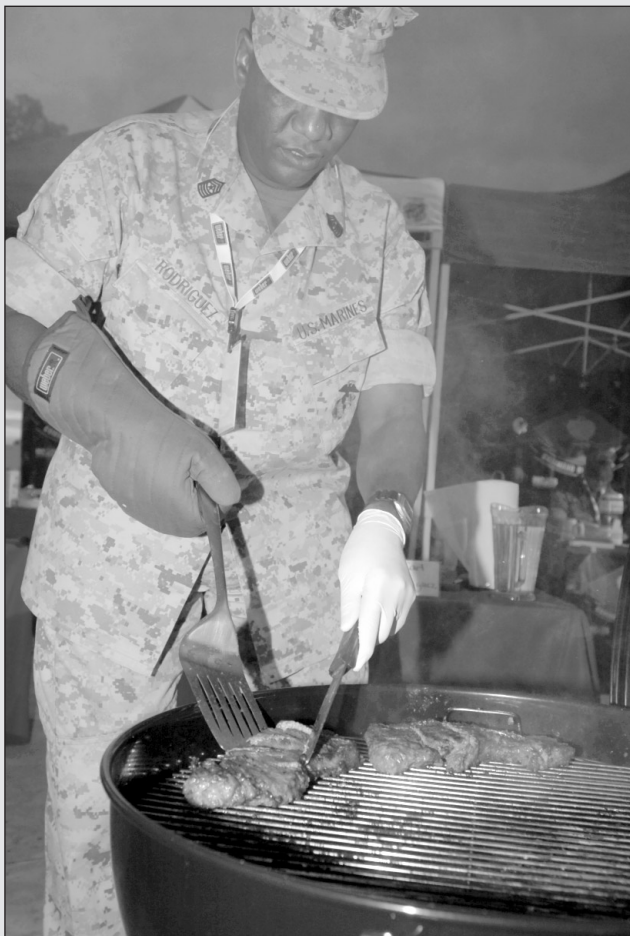
Always add some humor! Write about inside jokes that only he or she will understand, or about things that you know he or she will laugh aloud at.

If it is going to make him or her feel worse, keep it out! Telling your spouse about an incident that they have no control over and can't fix from where they are only makes them feel helpless and worse off. Only tell them of serious situations that they must know before they come home, save all others for face-to-face conversation. Sometimes, letters are the only communication available, so if you tell about a negative incident, it is all the Marine or sailor will think about until the next letter comes telling him or her the result. Keep it positive.

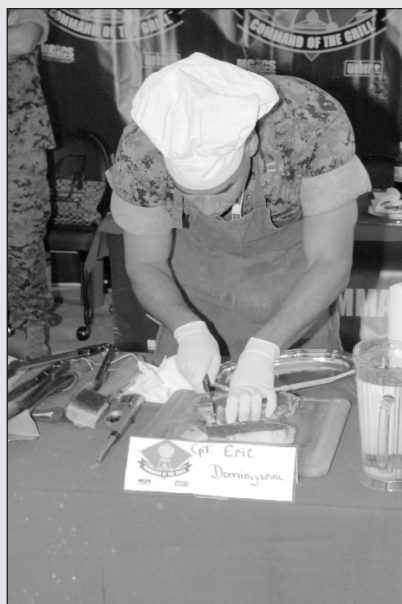
Never forget to say 'I MISS YOU' This statement is a known one, one that is repeated over and over again, but a letter should

never be sent without it being said. These words hold much emotion and love behind them. They can never grow old or unwarranted. There are several more tips and ideas that you can obtain through published books, magazines, and the Internet (these tips in particular taken from 'What Not To Write' by Tranette Ledford, Military Spouse Magazine, Sept/Oct 2005). But, probably the most helpful source is our seasoned military sisters, those of us whom have been there, done that, and are doing it all over again. As many seasoned spouses will tell you, each and every letter written and those received back are saved over the years. They will tell you each time your Marine or sailor leaves for yet another deployment, you should pull out those cherished letters and remember that you really aren't going through the deployment alone at all. No, you two (you and your Marine or sailor) are a team, and you will get through this separation together. So, start writing and saving, and in turn creating memories only 'the few and the proud' can construct.

Command of the Grill visits New River



(Left) Sgt. Maj. Carl Rodriguez, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 sergeant major, examines his second place steaks. (Below) Captain Eric Dominijanni, winner of the Command of the Grill cook-off sponsored by Weber grills, grills outside of the Officers' Club, Oct. 28. Dominijanni won a trip to New York City to compete against other Marines during Fleet Week and to have his recipe published in a Command of the Grill cookbook. Seven Marines from the Station participated in the event.



Station Theater Movies

Nov. 2 - Nov. 16

Wed. Nov. 2	9 a.m.	Just Like Heaven	PG-13
	7 p.m.	Just Like Heaven	PG-13
Fri. Nov. 4	7 p.m.	Corpse Bride	PG
	9:30 p.m.	Just Like Heaven	PG-13
Sat. Nov. 5	7 p.m.	Corpse Bride	PG
	9:30 p.m.	Flightplan	PG-13
Sun. Nov. 6	3 p.m.	Corpse Bride	PG
	6 p.m.	Just Like Heaven	PG-13
Mon. Nov. 7	7 p.m.	Lord of War	R
Wed. Nov. 9	9 a.m.	Flightplan	PG-13
	7 p.m.	Flightplan	PG-13
Fri. Nov. 11	7 p.m.	Flightplan	PG-13
	9:30 p.m.	Lord of War	R
Sat. Nov. 12	7 p.m.	Yours, Mine and Ours	
		Sneak Preview	PG
	9:30 p.m.	Flightplan	PG-13
Sun. Nov. 13	3 p.m.	Lord of War	R
	6 p.m.	Into the Blue	PG-13
Mon. Nov. 14	7 p.m.	Serenity	PG-13
Wed. Nov. 16	9 a.m.	Into the Blue	PG-13
	7 p.m.	Into the Blue	PG-13



The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins. Movies and times are subject to change.

For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.



A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.

A life less ordinary: Retired Marine remembers nightmare

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

"You can do no wrong if you march toward the sound of the cannon fire," said retired Chief Warrant Officer Guy L. Hunter, remembering a favorite quote. Hunter spent 30 years marching toward the sound of cannon fire, but in January 1991, at the twilight of his Marine Corps career, he endured the nightmare of being a prisoner of war after his aircraft was shot down during the opening days of Operation Desert Storm.

"I always thought that if a war was on, that's where the Marines were supposed to be," he said. "I would have been disappointed immensely if my squadron mates had gone and I missed the war. That's why I always volunteered."

He said he traveled to Saudi Arabia in the autumn of 1990 as an advance party for Marine Observation Squadron-2, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"We did extensive training with the ground units and became familiar with the area before the war kicked off in January, and as luck would have it, on my second mission running air strikes with Col. (Clifford M.) Acree, (VMO-2 commanding officer), we got shot down."

He describes the experience as being "sort of a blur," but recalls a missile destroying the left engine of their OV-10A Bronco.

"It knocked me out cold and shattered my helmet. It gave me a nasty gash over my left eye," he said. "If it was a millimeter deeper I would have lost the eye"

Both men successfully ejected from the doomed aircraft, but as their parachutes slowly descended to the desert floor, they realized they would be landing in the middle of an entire Iraqi infantry division.

They were captured almost immediately and taken to Baghdad. Thus began a month and a half long ordeal for Hunter and his fellow POW(s) that would see them endure unimaginable abuse at the hands of their Iraqi captors.

"They beat us, tortured us, tied us up; all kinds of various things. They threatened to kill us innumerable times and starved us for a long time. I lost over 30 lbs. during that time.

Hunter said he quickly fell ill due to the malnourishment and lack of medical treatment to his injured eye. He also developed sores on his back and sides from sleeping on the brick floor.

"I was really getting bad. I got to the point where I

wouldn't even get up to walk around my cell because I was trying to conserve energy.

Despite the miserable conditions in which he lived for that time, he said the most dreadful torture was in knowing that he may never see his family again, and that they would never know what became of him.

"That was the worst part. That's what bothered me the most."

As the days past, Hunter said a routine slowly emerged, marked by intermittent interrogations and beatings.

"I began marking the days on the wall of my cell, but on the 23rd of 24th February, our building was hit during an air strike by F-117 (Nighthawks) because it was also a Baath Party intelligence headquarters. The first attack blew a hole into the side of the building, and all the Iraqis fled into their shelters. Luckily the bombs had delayed fuses, so they went straight through the top floor where we were and exploded below us. The only injuries we had were bruises from the bricks flying around. The good news is that we were never interrogated again after that."

Hunter and his fellow POW(s) were then transferred to another prison, where they were able to communicate with each other for the first time since being captured.

"We tried to get the most up-to-date information from the guys who had been shot down after us. It was definitely an encouraging position to be in. We'd been in solitary confinement the whole time."

The feeling didn't last long, because the next morning they were split up again, but Hunter said the continual bombing of the city led him to believe that war, and possibly their captivity, could not last much longer.

"I thought to myself, 'there's no way this can last more than three months; they simply can't take it,' and as it turned out, it was only a month and a half. Then, in early March, we were taken to a different prison where a man gave me a piece of chicken and a piece of cheese, and I thought, 'boy, things are looking up.'"

The next day, the POW(s) were allowed to clean themselves with soap and water, given clean clothes to wear and they had their faces shaved by one of their captors.

"I knew good things were happening. I knew we were getting out soon, and I was right, because a few days later, we were blindfolded and led out of our cells to buses waiting outside.

There was even a man waiting at the door to spray us with (cologne) to make us smell better," he said with a laugh.

The group was taken to a hotel in downtown Baghdad and cared for by members of the Red Cross. The next day, they began their journey back to the United States, and down the long road to recovery.

Hunter seems to take pride in the fact that after only a month of convalescent leave, returned to duty to finish out the remainder of his tour. In 1992, he and his family moved back to the east coast.

Shortly after the move, Hunter's retirement orders were changed and he was promoted to the rank of CWO5. He served his final two years aboard New River.

He now teaches part



contributor

Retired Chief Warrant Officer Guy L. Hunter poses during one of his many deployments to Vietnam. Hunter enlisted in the Corps in 1962.

time at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, and is enjoying his retirement to the fullest. He said he is proud, as all Marines should be, of his service, despite the hardships he endured.

Joe A. Pizzo, a former Marine and Hunter's friend for approximately 16 years, said he considers it an honor to know Hunter, not only for what he overcame in Iraq, but for his accomplishments throughout his career.

"Guy is the biggest patriot I've ever met," he said. "The things he's done could fill a book. He talks about the sense of adventure he felt; he makes it almost sound like swashbuckling."

Hunter said his time in the Marine Corps was "a blast," and if given the opportunity, he'd do it all over again.

"Marines should be proud," he said. "It's one thing you can always take with you. You were somebody special, you were a Marine."



contributor

Guy L. Hunter's demolished OV-10A Bronco sits in the sand in Kuwait after being struck by a surface-to-air missile. Hunter and his pilot, Lt. Col. Clifford Acree both successfully ejected, but were quickly captured by Iraqis.



contributor

Guy L. Hunter in the rear seat of an OV-10 Bronco. Hunter started his career as a radio operator and later became an observation officer for Marine Observation Squadron-2.